

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF ARTISTS AND EXHIBITS - US-USSR

REF: A) MOSCOW 6080, B) STATE 093772, C) STATE 072899,
D) MOSCOW 4143, E) 75 MOSCOW 17040, F) 75 STATE 278590
G) 75 MOSCOW 16448

1. IN APRIL 20 MEETING BETWEEN P&C COUNSELOR AND UNION OF
ARTISTS ACTING SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS KIRILENKO, FOLLOWING
POINTS AND PROPOSALS WERE MADE:

2. THE UNION CANNOT ACCEPT PROPOSED US ART EXHIBITIONS REF G-75
MOSCOW 16448) IN 1976 DUE TO CONTINUED SHORTAGE EXHIBIT SPACE.
HOWEVER, UNION'S 1977 PLAN PROPOSES SHOWING ONE US EXHIBITION.
WHEN P&C COUNSELOR EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT UNSOLICITED INVITATION
FOR US EXHIBITION, KIRILENKO RESPONDED THAT IN EXCHANGE SOVIETS
WOULD EXPECT SEND ONE EXHIBITION TO US IN CALENDAR 1978. SOVIET
PROPOSAL WOULD BE ON PRINCIPLE RECEIVING SIDE PAYS ALL COSTS.

3. IN RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO UNION IDEA P&C COUNSELOR POINTED
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OUT DIFFICULTY OF RECIPROCITY, AS USG HAS NO ORGANIZATION COM-

PARABLE TO UNION TO ACCEPT SOVIET EXHIBITION IN EXCHANGE FOR UNION'S SPONSORSHIP OF US SHOW. P&C COUNSELOR NEVERTHELESS STRESSED UNDERLYING US INTEREST IN AN EXCHANGE AND PROMISED TO EXPLORE MEANS OF WORKING OUT SOLUTION.

4. ARTISTS EXCHANGE SECOND MAJOR TOPIC. P&C COUNSELOR SAID SMITHSONIAN HAD ASKED HE INQUIRE ABOUT UNION'S RESPONSE TO AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM'S LETTER TO UNION PRESIDENT SALAKHOV SUGGESTING THAT ANDREY SOKOLOV BE ONE OF TWO ARTISTS TO VISIT US IN CONNECTION WITH OPENING SOVIET SPACE ART EXHIBIT (REFTEL C, STATE 072899). KIRILENKO PROMISED RESPONSE TO SMITHSONIAN LETTER, BUT OFFERED NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON IDENTITY OF ARTISTS TO BE SELECTED BY UNION FOR US TRIP.

5. AS FOR SECOND US ARTIST, KIRILENKO REMINDED EMBASSY THAT EMBASSY HAD MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF LARRY RIVERS VISIT TO USSR, UNION WOULD WELCOME VISIT BY RIVERS AS THE SECOND ARTIST IN US EXCHANGE. P&C COUNSELOR REITERATED EMBASSY'S WILLINGNESS EXTEND UNION'S INVITATION TO RIVERS FOR DEFINITE TOUR AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. (FYI. BELIEVE RIVERS WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE ABSTRACT ARTIST THAN GEORGE SEGAL. STILL WISH TO SEE SEGAL CATALOGUE, HOWEVER, PER REFTEL A, MOSCOW 6080, END FYI.)

6. P&C COUNSELOR SUGGESTED PRESENT EXCHANGE OF ARTISTS BE CONTINUED BEYOND EXCHANGE STIMULATED BY SPACE ART EXHIBITS. KIRILENKO AGREED, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY NOTES ANY PRESENT OR FUTURE EXCHANGES BASED THUS FAR ENTIRELY ON INFORMAL AND UNWRITTEN UNDERSTANDING WITH UNION.

7. KIRILENKO SAID HE HAD BEEN SO IMPRESSED WITH JAMES WYETH'S PORTRAIT OF KENNEDY IN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH UNION FOREIGN SECRETARY KOROLEV POSSIBILITY OF EXHIBITION IN SOVIET UNION OF "THREE GENERATIONS OF WYETHS." P&C COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT KOROLEV HAD IN FACT DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY WITH JAMIE WYETH DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO USSR IN JULY, 1975. FURTHER, IN VISIT TO WYETH'S HOUSE IN DECEMBER, 1975 HE WAS ASSURED OF WYETH'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN DISCUSSING PROJECT. EXPLAINING THAT WYETH FAMILY MUSEUM, THE BRANDYWINE, IS EQUIPPED TO HANDLE SUCH AN EXCHANGE, P&C COUNSELOR URGED UNION TO REVIVE IDEA BY WRITING DIRECTLY TO JAMES WYETH.

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8. COMMENT: (A) EMBASSY FAVORS PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF EXHIBITS OF US AND USSR CONTEMPORARY ART AND SUGGESTS USIA/STATE APPROACH SMITHSONIAN WITH PROPOSAL IT ORGANIZE RECIPROCAL EXHIBITS, ONE PER ANNUM, PER PARAS ONE TO THREE, ABOVE. SMITHSONIAN PREFERABLE TO PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, THE WHITNEY OR THE CORCORAN, AS IT FEDERALLY CHARTERED CORPORATION AND UNION'S FAMILIARITY WORKING WITH IN

ON SPACE AIR IN IMPORTANT PLUS. FURTHER, EXHIBIT
MODERN AMERICAN ART WOULD BE HIGH PROFILE, HIGH IMPACT SHOW.
SELECTIONS SHOULD BE MADE WITH CAUTION TO REFLECT CREATIVE
VITALITY CONTEMPORARY US ART SCENE BUT WITH INTELLIGENT EFFORT
NOT IRRITATE NEEDLESSLY LOCAL WATCHDOGS OF CULTURAL ORTHODOZY.
IN THIS PROCESS, SMITHSONIAN HAS ADVANTAGES OVER MORE
PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

(B) OF SMALL EXHIBITS OFFERED TO UNION, ACCORDING OUR
RECORDS, ONLY SHOW OF LOUISE NEVELSON'S GRAPHICS AVAILABLE
THROUGH 1977. PLEASE CONFIRM. IF SO, ASK SOONEST AIR
POUCHING TWO CATAGOGUES HER SHOW.

(C) IF RIVERS AVAILABLE FOR 2-3 WEEK TOUR SPONSORED BY ARTISTS
UNION, SUGGEST HE COME IN FALL, PERHAPS DURING BICENTENNIAL
EXHIBIT OPENING NOVEMBER 11.

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